

REMARKS

In the Action, Claims 1-22 are pending. Claims 1-3, 6, 8, 12 and 18 are rejected. Claims 4, 5, 7, 9-11, 13-17 and 19-22 are objected to. Claims 1 and 6-9 have been amended. Claim 4 has been cancelled. Claims 1-3 and 5-22 remain.

Claims 4-9 are objected to due to informalities. In response, Applicant has cancelled Claim 4 and amended Claims 5-9 responsive to the objections. Approval is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Kotola et al. (PG Pub US 2005/0079817 A1). In Response, Applicant has amended Claim 1 by incorporating the limitations of claim 4 which the Examiner notes would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and to provide clarification of what was intended to be claimed. Further amendments are made to the claims to improve readability. Approval is respectfully requested.

Claims 6, 8, 12 and 18 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kotola et al., further in view of Fujioka (PG Pub US 2002/0193073 A1), for the reasons indicated at page 5 continuing to page 10 of the Action. In response, Applicant notes, based upon the prior art, as shown, for example, each of these claims depends directly or indirectly from Claim 1 and are in condition for allowance for the same reason.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all outstanding requirements have been complied with and the claims pending for examination, namely claims 1-3 and 5-22 are now in condition for allowance, which early action is requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR, & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 10/14/07

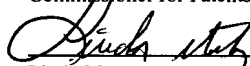
By: 

Eric S. Hyman, Reg. No. 30,139

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025
(310) 207-3800

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendments, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.


Linda Metz Date

10/16/07